

Meeting Summary
June 12, 2003 Meeting
Oyster Creek TMDL Advisory Committee

Stakeholders Present: Al Abramczyk, Tricia Bradbury, Howard Christian, Warren Davis, Lee Dorger, John Gaudin, Carrie Guadarrama (for Martha Martin), David Jalowy, Lisa Rogers, David Sauer, Joe Taylor

Stakeholders Absent: None

Others Present: Steve Berry (Jones & Carter), Millie Holifield (Missouri City Public Works), Raymond Macek (GCWA)

Support Staff: TCEQ— John Gillen, Jody Henneke, Jason Leifester, Faye Lui;
TIAER—Larry Hauck, Heather Jones

Administrative Issues

The meeting of the Upper Oyster Creek Dissolved Oxygen and Bacteria TMDL Watershed Steering Committee met Thursday, June 12th from 2:00-4:45 pm at the Sugar Land Community Center in Sugar Land, Texas. Jody Henneke, TCEQ Public Affairs Director and committee facilitator, opened the meeting and self-introductions were made.

TMDL Overview

Jason Leifester, TCEQ project manager, introduced the TMDL process by defining that waters are assessed against the *Texas Water Quality Surface Standards*. Assessment results are reported in the *Texas Water Quality Inventory and §303(d) List*. If waters do not meet the standards specified in the Clean Water Act §303(d) list then a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) is triggered. Discussion then centered on TMDLs and why and how they are performed. Components of the TMDL including the elements of an implementation plan and the stakeholder representation were presented.

Overview of Water Quality Impairments

Larry Hauck, TIAER, presented background information on the water quality issues concerning Upper Oyster Creek. Contact recreation and aquatic life uses are the focus of the Upper Oyster Creek TMDL. Contact recreation is assigned unless elevated concentrations of bacteria frequently occur due to sources of pollution that cannot reasonably be controlled by existing regulations or if contact recreation is considered unsafe for other reasons such as ship or barge traffic. Contact recreation use is protected by criteria for fecal coliform and/or *E. coli*. Sampling for these bacteria was discussed, and a hypothetical example of assessment methodology was presented.

Aquatic life use is protected by criteria for mean and minimum dissolved oxygen (DO) concentrations. Oyster Creek has an intermediate aquatic life use designation. To account for variations in DO concentration during day and night hours, DO criteria are based upon 24-hour mean and minimum concentrations.

Upper Oyster Creek Segment Specifics

Jason Leifester of TCEQ presented specifics regarding the Upper Oyster Creek (Segment 1245 TMDL). Designated uses of concern are aquatic life and contact recreation. The 2002 draft *Texas Water Quality Inventory and §303(d) List* indicates that the aquatic life use is partially supporting and the standard has not been met in previous years. Contact recreation is listed as not being supported for the stream section of Highway 90A to Dam #1, located upstream of Harmon street. Bacteria are also a concern from Dam #1 to Oyster Creek/Jones Creek confluence. It was noted that fecal coliform bacteria data can be used until sufficient *E. coli* data is gathered.

Project Status

Larry Hauck outlined the status of the project and presented project objectives as being performed by the lead organization.

Project Status

- Historical data review — completed
- Monitoring plan and schedule — completed
- Quality assurance project plan — approved by TCEQ & EPA
- Monitoring — ongoing; began in October 2002 will be completed in September 2004
- 2004 Work Plan — in progress

The two-year monitoring effort is designed to categorize the extent of bacterial noncompliance, identify the sources of bacterial contamination, characterize DO concentration along the entire segment, and provide DO data necessary for model validation.

Establishment of Groundrules

Jody Henneke (TCEQ) provided an overview of the purpose of groundrules and led discussions tailoring the dioxin TMDL stakeholder group groundrules, which were used as a basis, to fit the needs of the committee. The committee decided that new entities or stakeholders will be added by the consensus agreement of the stakeholder group and not by individual requests made by stakeholders. Substitutes will be allowed and will assume the role of the official stakeholder when the facilitator, Ms. Henneke, is notified prior to meeting date. Meetings will be taped and stakeholders can ask for the opportunity to address the group off the record (tape will be turned off). Observers will not have the right to speak off the record. Draft agendas will be sent with notice of meetings. Meeting time and estimated length of meeting will be provided in draft agenda. TIAER will distribute meeting minutes for review and approval by stakeholders prior to posting on the TCEQ website.

Wrap-up and Meeting Conclusion

Items for consideration at the next stakeholder meeting include:

1. Detailed monitoring information on bacteria data for sampling sites
2. Information on source tracking of bacteria
3. DO results for sampling sites

The group asked that meetings be held on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday with a 1:30 pm start time. The second Thursday of the month was considered the preferred date for meetings.

Stakeholders asked TIAER to provide:

1. Raw data as soon as it is reasonably available
2. Schedule of sampling dates
3. Map defining subsections of Upper Oyster Creek
4. Full page sampling site location maps shown in PowerPoint presentations

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:45 pm.